

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 9, 2006. Through this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 14, 15, 21, and 26 to incorporate allowable claim features, correct for proper antecedent basis, or correct typographical errors. Further, Applicants have added claims 31 and 32, and canceled claims 13 and 24-25 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims 1-12, 14-23, and 26-32 are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have incorporated allowable claim features into independent claims 1, 21, 26, and 31. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 13. Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 15. Claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 13. Claim 31 comprises a method claim that has like features to claim 21 (the latter which incorporates the features of allowable claim 15).

In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome or rendered moot, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Specification Amendments

Various amendments have been made to the specification through this Response to correct typographical and grammatical errors, and to provide a correct and accurate description of embodiments of the Applicants' invention as originally disclosed. Although these amendments effect several changes to the specification, no new matter has been added.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(a, b, e) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 21, 24, 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Tilley et al.* ("*Tilley*," U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,217). Claims 1, 21, 24, 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by *Rahman et al.* ("*Rahman*," U.S. Pat. No. 6,560,447). Claims 1, 21, 24, 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Seendripu et al.* ("*Seendripu*," U.S. Publication No. 2005/0239428). Claims 1, 21, 24, 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Fague et al.* ("*Fague*," U.S. Publication No. 2004/0146122). Claims 1-3, 7-12, 21-26, 28,-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Holenstein et al.* ("*Holenstein*," U.S. Pat. No. 6,985,711). Claims 4-6, 17-20, 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Holestein et al.* in view of *Chen et al.* ("*Chen*," U.S. Publication No. 2004/0012439). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, but in the interest of advancing this case to allowance, Applicants have amended the claims or added new claims that incorporate allowable claim features, hence rendering the rejections moot and placing the claims in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

IV. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 13 and 24-25 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

V. New Claims

Claims 31 and 32 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims describe embodiments of an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

/dr/

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